

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES SCRUTINY FORUM

Minutes of meeting held in Committee Room 5, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 5 November 2009

**Chair:**

Councillor Tommy Gilligan

**Councillors Present:**

John Anderson, Pam Clearie, Hugh Dunsmuir, Mary McNeill, Henry Mitchell, Graham Scott, George Sutherland, Jim Wardhaugh

**Attending:**

**Corporate Resources**

G Bow, Administration Adviser

**Enterprise Resources**

A Colthart, Head of Support Services; G Wells, Operations Adviser

**Finance and Information Technology Resources**

P Manning, Head of Finance Services; L O'Hagan, Finance Manager (Accounting and Budgeting)

**Housing and Technical Resources**

I Douglas, Project Services Manager; J Stobie, Head of Property Services

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### 1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

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### 2 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of the Financial Resources Scrutiny Forum held on 29 September 2009 were submitted for approval as a correct record.

**The Forum decided:**

- (1) that the minutes be approved as a correct record; and
- (2) that Councillor H Mitchell's comments that the minutes did not reflect issues raised by him in relation to the powers and responsibilities of the Forum be noted.

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### 3 Information Requested from Resources

A report dated 29 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on information received from Resources in response to the following issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum:-

- ◆ Community Resources – Vacancies and overtime within Facilities and Cultural Services
- ◆ Education Resources – Schools' Refuse Uplift
- ◆ Housing and Technical Resources – Care of Gardens

**The Forum decided:**

- (1) that the information provided by Resources on the issues raised at the last meeting of the Forum be noted;

- (2) that a request be made to Education Resources and Community Resources that the Forum be kept advised of the progress and outcome of a review into the frequency and type of waste uplifted from schools; and
- (3) that a request be made to Housing and Technical Resources to provide further information on the qualifying criteria for the Care of Gardens Scheme and the distinction made between council tenants and owner occupiers.

*[Reference: Minutes of 29 September 2009 (Paragraph 3)]*

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#### **4 Revenue Budget Monitoring 2009/2010**

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A report dated 6 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the position of the Council's revenue budget at 4 September 2009 including:-

- ◆ the financial position of the revenue budget for the General Services, Housing Revenue and Trading Services accounts
- ◆ the financial and operational position of the Roads Contracting Trading Service

##### **The Forum decided:**

- (1) that further information be requested from Corporate Resources on:-
  - ◆ the underspend within Legal Services and the relationship to vacant posts
  - ◆ the overspend on rent and service charges amounting to £40,000 at Brandon Gate, Hamilton
- (2) that clarification be requested from Housing and Technical Resources on:-
  - ◆ the rise in overspend from £265,000 in Period 5 to £476,000 in Period 6 on the Grounds Maintenance, Care of Gardens budget line together with an explanation on why the initial projections had been inaccurate
  - ◆ the requirement to provide bed and breakfast accommodation at a level that was overspent by £104,000 when there was an under recovery of rent amounting to £215,000 from properties that were available to let by the Homeless Service
- (3) that confirmation be requested from Social Work Resources that the overspend on Aids and Adaptations had been caused by the Council's policy of supporting people in order that they could live independently in their own homes as long as possible.

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#### **5 Capital Budget Monitoring 2009/2010**

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A report dated 7 October 2009 by the Executive Director (Finance and Information Technology Resources) was submitted on the progress of the Council's various capital programmes at 4 September 2009 including information on:-

- ◆ the financial and physical progress of the Housing Capital Programme
- ◆ the financial and physical progress of the various General Fund Capital Programmes
- ◆ adjustments to the 2009/2010 General Fund Capital Programme which had been agreed by the Executive Committee

**The Forum decided:** that the report be noted.

*[Reference: Minutes of Executive Committee held on 7 October 2009 (Paragraph 3)]*

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## **6 Urgent Business**

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There were no items of urgent business.